

From: Doug Powell
To: (b) (6) - FSIS
Subject: [barfblog] Market microbial food safety instead of fear: Hot dogs do not contain human meat
Date: Thursday, November 5, 2015 8:00:37 PM

Summary:

The eye-catching headlines on the new findings started coming in waves. "Report: Human DNA Found in Hot Dogs" said USA Today, in a typical example.

This bizarre information came from a single document released on Oct. 17 by the consumer marketing arm of a company called Clear Labs, which had found traces of human DNA in ...

View the entire entry:

<http://barfblog.com/2015/11/market-microbial-food-safety-instead-of-fear-hot-dogs-do-not-contain-human-meat/>

=====

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From: Bernstein, Christopher - FSIS
To: [Hanes, Tina - FSIS](#)
Subject: RE: Meeting to Discuss Human DNA found in hog dogs
Date: Tuesday, November 3, 2015 3:58:17 PM

Great, thanks.

From: Hanes, Tina - FSIS
Sent: Tuesday, November 03, 2015 2:56 PM
To: Bernstein, Christopher - FSIS
Subject: RE: Meeting to Discuss Human DNA found in hog dogs

Yes, once Uday (and his name is pronounced "Ud-eye", so you were correct. I've been pronouncing his name wrong for years :0) sends the statement we will follow up and return the calls to the consumers we promised.

Tina

Tina Hanes
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Food Safety and Inspection Service, USDA
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Washington, DC 20250
Phone: (202) 708-9530
tina.hanes@fsis.usda.gov

From: Bernstein, Christopher - FSIS
Sent: Tuesday, November 03, 2015 2:32 PM
To: Hanes, Tina - FSIS
Subject: RE: Meeting to Discuss Human DNA found in hog dogs

Great, are you feeling more comfortable w/ this issue then? I want to make sure the Hotline has what it needs.

From: Hanes, Tina - FSIS
Sent: Tuesday, November 03, 2015 2:23 PM
To: Bernstein, Christopher - FSIS
Subject: Meeting to Discuss Human DNA found in hog dogs

Hi Chris,

The meeting just ended. Uday and his team will come up with a bullet or statement regarding the DNA (e.g. technology allows us to sample down to a micro level, it doesn't mean the food is unsafe....etc) that the Hotline can use to answer the calls we received last week. We decided that this is sufficient for our needs at this time but agreed it may come back around and we may have to start addressing this at an agency level depending on how the company, Clear

Labs, markets this new technology. If that occurs we will re-group and address the issue at hand. CDC provided some information (attached in the email) that may also help us but we can reach out to Uday and his team if new issues pop up and we need further guidance.

Sincerely,
Tina

Tina Hanes

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tina.hanes@fsis.usda.gov

From: Phillips, Robert - FSIS
To: [Dessai, Uday - FSIS](#)
Subject: from the hot dog report
Date: Tuesday, November 3, 2015 3:21:20 PM

<http://www.clearfood.com/faq>

What do you mean you found human DNA in hot dogs? Does that mean a hair dropped in or is it more pernicious?

While our tests pick up human DNA, they cannot tell us the precise source of that DNA.

The most likely cause is hair, skin, or fingernail that was accidentally mixed in during the manufacturing process.

It is unlikely that human DNA is harmful to consumer health. In general, we consider human DNA a hygienic issue that degrades the quality of food more than a public health concern. Human DNA in products in our opinion speaks more issues of truth in advertising, pricing, and overall transparency.

What most people don't know is that some amounts of human DNA may fall within an acceptable regulatory range. That means that some human DNA is often allowed, regulatorily speaking. The amounts we detected in our research all fell within the acceptable regulatory range as we understand them.

Unfortunately some media have picked up on the presence human DNA in some products with disproportionate emphasis, compared to major issues like major pork substitution in pork-free products, which we ourselves consider to be the most alarming finding.

Robert W. Phillips, Ph.D.
Senior Staff Officer
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Fax: 706-546-3656
email: robert.phillips@fsis.usda.gov

From: (b) (6) - FSIS
To: (b) (6) - FSIS
Subject: RE: The Hot Dog Report Finds Meat in Meat-Free Products, Along with Human DNA - Food Safety Magazine
Date: Thursday, October 29, 2015 9:33:13 AM

WOW! Thanks (b) (6)
Very interesting

-----Original Message-----

From: (b) (6) - FSIS
Sent: Monday, October 26, 2015 7:15 AM
To: (b) (6) - FSIS
Subject: The Hot Dog Report Finds Meat in Meat-Free Products, Along with Human DNA - Food Safety Magazine

<http://www.foodsafetymagazine.com/news/the-hot-dog-report-finds-meat-in-meat-free-products-along-with-human-dna/>

Interesting!

From: (b) (6) - FSIS
To: [Teri Malone](#)
Subject: FW: The Hot Dog Report Finds Meat in Meat-Free Products, Along with Human DNA - Food Safety Magazine
Date: Thursday, October 29, 2015 9:32:54 AM

Stop eating HOT DOGS

-----Original Message-----

From: (b) (6) - FSIS
Sent: Monday, October 26, 2015 7:15 AM
To: (b) (6) - FSIS
Subject: The Hot Dog Report Finds Meat in Meat-Free Products, Along with Human DNA - Food Safety Magazine

<http://www.foodsafetymagazine.com/news/the-hot-dog-report-finds-meat-in-meat-free-products-along-with-human-dna/>

Interesting!

From: (b) (6) - FSIS
To: [Klicko, Krystal \(krystal.klicko@nebraska.gov\)](mailto:Krystal.klicko@nebraska.gov)
Subject: FW: The Hot Dog Report Finds Meat in Meat-Free Products, Along with Human DNA - Food Safety Magazine
Date: Thursday, October 29, 2015 9:32:36 AM

It figures. You can't trust any foods you eat unless it is NOT PROCESSED. Even then care should be taken to clean properly. Meaning vegetarian.

-----Original Message-----

From: (b) (6) - FSIS
Sent: Monday, October 26, 2015 7:15 AM
To: (b) (6) FSIS
Subject: The Hot Dog Report Finds Meat in Meat-Free Products, Along with Human DNA - Food Safety Magazine

<http://www.foodsafetymagazine.com/news/the-hot-dog-report-finds-meat-in-meat-free-products-along-with-human-dna/>

Interesting!

From: Tillman, Glenn - FSIS
To: [Phillips, Robert - FSIS](#)
Subject: RE: can you identify this chip?
Date: Thursday, October 29, 2015 8:11:52 AM

Yes! That is MiSeq chip. The nextseq looks like an iphone

Glenn Tillman, Ph.D.
Microbiologist
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From: Phillips, Robert - FSIS
Sent: Thursday, October 29, 2015 8:11 AM
To: Tillman, Glenn - FSIS
Subject: can you identify this chip?



From the "human DNA in hot dog" report. This is from their website. Do you know which instrument it goes with?

I think it's supposed to be for WGS work.

Robert W. Phillips, Ph.D.
Senior Staff Officer
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email:robert.phillips@fsis.usda.gov

From: Magoulas, Argyris - FSIS
To: [Hanes, Tina - FSIS](#)
Subject: RE: Human DNA on processed meats?
Date: Wednesday, October 28, 2015 3:39:06 PM
Attachments: [image005.png](#)
[image006.png](#)
[image007.png](#)
[image009.png](#)

I know, it seems this genomics -something high tech company has lots of science but also lots of misleading information alongside.

If this was done unintentionally, simply due to an egg-head scientist without common sense, it may be a bit understandable,
But to do this without any kind of responsibility for the consequences of such reporting to the wide public is....egregious to say the least.

A.

Argyris K. Magoulas

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argyris.magoulas@fsis.usda.gov



From: Hanes, Tina - FSIS
Sent: Wednesday, October 28, 2015 3:36 PM
To: Magoulas, Argyris - FSIS
Subject: RE: Human DNA on processed meats?

That report makes no sense to me. They present all this data, without their methodology and explanation of what it means. How can we comment or make a statement when we don't even know what this data means.

I'm so confused by this.

Tina Hanes

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From: Magoulas, Argyris - FSIS
Sent: Wednesday, October 28, 2015 3:31 PM
To: Yuvienco, Clara - FSIS; Hanes, Tina - FSIS; Lopez-Munoz, Janice; Bernstein, Christopher - FSIS; Magoulas, Argyris - FSIS
Subject: RE: Human DNA on processed meats?

Here is what I found at www.clearfood.com – the “hot dog report” - FYI

http://www.clearfood.com/food_reports/2015/the_hotdog_report

Archie

Argyris K. Magoulas

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<http://www.cfcnca.org/>

From: Yuvienco, Clara - FSIS
Sent: Wednesday, October 28, 2015 3:17 PM
To: Magoulas, Argyris - FSIS; Hanes, Tina - FSIS; Lopez-Munoz, Janice; Bernstein, Christopher - FSIS
Subject: RE: Human DNA on processed meats?

I also got a call and the caller gave me the website to the article and a company name: Clear Food.
Interesting...

-Clara

From: Magoulas, Argyris - FSIS
Sent: Wednesday, October 28, 2015 3:15 PM
To: Hanes, Tina - FSIS; Lopez-Munoz, Janice; Bernstein, Christopher - FSIS
Cc: Yuvienco, Clara - FSIS
Subject: RE: Human DNA on processed meats?

When I got the call, the man thought we all have heard of this by now, and I said "no"

My reaction was at first was to ask: what ('snoops' or whatever) phony-news outlet did this come from?.

As he was still talking I did a quick search and wow: there were tons of articles on this...

Most SPURIOUS (if I may say) ??

Archie

From: Hanes, Tina - FSIS
Sent: Wednesday, October 28, 2015 3:08 PM
To: Magoulas, Argyris - FSIS; Lopez-Munoz, Janice; Bernstein, Christopher - FSIS
Cc: Yuvienco, Clara - FSIS
Subject: RE: Human DNA on processed meats?

I agree with you Archie, human DNA is found in hair and skin cells so what is the report implying?

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From: Magoulas, Argyris - FSIS
Sent: Wednesday, October 28, 2015 3:07 PM
To: Lopez-Munoz, Janice; Hanes, Tina - FSIS; Bernstein, Christopher - FSIS
Cc: Yuvienco, Clara - FSIS; Magoulas, Argyris - FSIS
Subject: RE: Human DNA on processed meats?

A piece of human hair can be 'human DNA' – over even a skin cell (we shed a great deal of these/daily btw)..

So what are these media outlets, some quite reputable like Huffington Post, USDA today, etc, trying to say with this 'Human DNA' story?

IT seems very disturbing that media like these would know better ...! ☹

Or have some technical advisors who do.

ARchie

Argyris K. Magoulas

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<http://www.cfcnca.org/>

From: Lopez-Munoz, Janice
Sent: Wednesday, October 28, 2015 2:55 PM
To: Hanes, Tina - FSIS; Bernstein, Christopher - FSIS
Cc: Magoulas, Argyris - FSIS; Yuvienco, Clara - FSIS
Subject: RE: Human DNA on processed meats?

....just about curiosity I did a Google search- FYI

<http://www.usatoday.com/story/news/nation-now/2015/10/26/report-human-dna-found-hot-dogs/74617102/>

Janice López-Muñoz, BS, MSIH

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janice.lopezmunoz@fsis.usda.gov

From: Hanes, Tina - FSIS
Sent: Wednesday, October 28, 2015 2:52 PM
To: Bernstein, Christopher - FSIS
Cc: Magoulas, Argyris - FSIS; Lopez-Munoz, Janice; Yuvienco, Clara - FSIS
Subject: Human DNA on processed meats?

Hi Chris,

Janice received an inquiry through the Hotline asking about human DNA found on processed meats like hot dogs. He told Janice it's all over the news. Do you know anything about this or heard anything? Our talking points are about the cancer risk and processed meat, nothing about human DNA being found on meat and what does that mean anyway?

Tina

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From: (b) (6) - FSIS
To: [Kyle Stokes](#)
Subject: RE: The Hot Dog Report Finds Meat in Meat-Free Products and mixed species as well - Food Safety Magazine
Date: Tuesday, October 27, 2015 2:09:22 PM

Hi Kyle

I heard about this.

You a right about that. It is interesting.

Vanessa

From: Kyle Stokes [mailto:kylestokes@createcommongood.org]
Sent: Tuesday, October 27, 2015 10:48 AM
To: (b) (6) - FSIS; (b) (6) - FSIS; (b) (6) - FSIS
Subject: The Hot Dog Report Finds Meat in Meat-Free Products and mixed species as well - Food Safety Magazine

Think y'all might find this interesting...

<http://www.foodsafetymagazine.com/news/the-hot-dog-report-finds-meat-in-meat-free-products-along-with-human-dna/#.Vi-4bMMfXdE.gmail>

From: (b) (6) - FSIS
To: [Phil Bafundo](#)
Subject: FW: Food Safety eNews - October 26, 2015
Date: Tuesday, October 27, 2015 10:32:22 AM

The hot dog thing and some other stuff

(b) (6)
United States Department of Agriculture
Food Safety Inspection Service
OFO
(b) (6) @fsis.usda.gov

"OFO -- Verifying Food Safety and Animal Welfare Everyday"

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From: Scarcia, Susan - FSIS
Sent: Monday, October 26, 2015 8:14 AM
To: FSIS - FO/DO60/ALL
Subject: RE: Food Safety eNews - October 26, 2015

Today's Food Safety news

Susan G. Scarcia
District Manager
Philadelphia District Office
U.S. Dept. of Agriculture
The Food Safety and Inspection Service
Office of Field Operations
Mellon Independence Center
701 Market St. Suite 4100-A
Philadelphia, PA. 19106
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"OFO -- Verifying Food Safety and Animal Welfare Everyday"

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From: Thompson, Felicia - FSIS

Sent: Monday, October 26, 2015 8:06 AM

To: FSIS - Food Safety News; Batta, Todd - OSEC; Christenson, Daniel - OSEC; Dubinsky, Rachael -OC; Greenlee, Karen - OBPA; Halbrook, Brenda - FNS; Smith, Mark - OBPA; Narain, Lucky - FNS; Ronholm, Brian - OSEC; Schroeder, Carl - AMS; Stasiak, Sandie - OSEC; Thieman, Karla - OSEC; Yee, Julie - FNS; Zito, Mark - OBPA; Cochran, Catherine - OC; Cep, Melinda -OSEC; Huitric, Michele - FNS; Herrick, Matthew - OC; Reuschel, Trevor - OSEC; Petrzela, Joe - OSEC; Brown, Adriane - OC; Peters, Joanne - OC; Addie, Yewande - OC; McKalip, Doug - OSEC; Tarr, Adam - OSEC; 'Terry.Smith@obpa.usda.gov'

Subject: Food Safety eNews - October 26, 2015

Food Safety News

October 26, 2015

Food Safety Related News:

- *Meatingplace 10/26/2015 **IARC issues carcinogen ratings on processed, red meat***
<http://bit.ly/1O2uAUQ>
- *The Washington Post 10/26/2015 **Hot dogs, bacon and other processed meats cause cancer, World Health Organization declares***
<http://wapo.st/1O2uL2u>
- *Food Safety Magazine 10/23/2015 **The Hot Dog Report Finds Meat in Meat-Free Products, Along with Human DNA***
<http://bit.ly/1O2sDYr>
- *The Sentinel 10/23/2015 **Hanford's Central Valley Meat Co. temporarily shut down***
<http://bit.ly/1O2tcSi>
-
- *CBS Boston 10/23/2015 **Imported Chicken From China Draws Handling Concerns***
<http://cbsloc.al/1O2tsAK>
-

Recall Related News:

- *Meatingplace 10/26/2015 **Listeria concerns prompt small Whole Foods recall***
<http://bit.ly/1O2uFbd>
-
- *Tech Times 10/25/2015 **Whole Foods Recalls Chicken Salad And Deli Pasta Due To Listeria***

Risk

<http://bit.ly/1O2rXCq>

- Food World News 10/25/2015 **Ten Variants of Curry Chicken and Deli Pasta Salads to be Recalled by Whole Foods**

<http://bit.ly/1O2sKDp>

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-

Of Note:

-

- Food Safety News 10/26/2015 **The Complexities of Defining a 'Farm' Under FSMA**
<http://bit.ly/1O2srIP>
- Food Safety News 10/26/2015 **Learning to 'Bridge the GAPS' for Small and Mid-Sized Farms**
<http://cnb.cx/1S0w68y>
- Sidney Daily News 10/25/2015 **USDA and Alvin and the Chipmunks team up to reduce foodborne illness**
<http://bit.ly/1O2toAT>
- Grain News 10/24/2015 **China to resume imports from U.S. pork plants**
<http://bit.ly/1O2uk8v>
- NBC News 10/24/2015 **China's Hunger for World's Food Grows, and U.S. Farmers Are Glad**
<http://nbcnews.to/1O2sUuA>
- Farm Futures 10/23/2015 **Compromise nearing in 'GMO' labeling solution**
<http://bit.ly/1O2sRid>
- Free Lance Star 10/23/2015 **Food poisoning sleuths look to Yelp**
<http://bit.ly/1O2tHvz>

-

Congressional Summary

October 26, 2015

Legislative Schedule

The Senate meets at 3:00 p.m., and following any Leader remarks, resumes consideration of S.754, the Cybersecurity Information Sharing Act of 2015. At 5:00 p.m., the Senate enters Executive Session to consider Executive Calendar #140, Lawrence Joseph Vilardo, of New York, to be U.S. District Judge for the Western District of New York.

The House meets at 12:00 p.m. for morning hour and 2:00 p.m. for legislative business with votes on legislation considered under suspension of the rules postponed until 6:30 p.m.

!

Hearings and Markups

None to report.

-

Other News

None to report.

Julie Schwartz

Public Affairs Specialist

Congressional and Public Affairs Office

Office of Public Affairs and Consumer Education

Food Safety and Inspection Service, USDA

Room 1180 South Building

Washington, DC 20250

Office: (202) 720-0286

Cell: (202) 748-2642

Julie.Schwartz@fsis.usda.gov

From: (b) (6) - FSIS
To: [Thompson, David \(DDMDO90\) - FSIS](#)
Subject: Re: The Hot Dog Report Finds Meat in Meat-Free Products, Along with Human DNA - Food Safety Magazine
Date: Monday, October 26, 2015 3:45:13 PM

NAMI presented the vegan alternatives: Quorn and The Impossible Burger, which is plant-based with plant heme to give it that "real meat" blood flavor. Makes me not want to eat anything! Maybe that's their objective!

Sent from my iPhone

On Oct 26, 2015, at 3:10 PM, Thompson, David (DDMDO90) - FSIS
<David.Thompson4@fsis.usda.gov> wrote:

The vegans don't have it any better.

From: david.thompson4@addthis.com [<mailto:david.thompson4@addthis.com>] **On Behalf Of** david.thompson4@fsis.usda.gov
Sent: Monday, October 26, 2015 11:07 AM
To: Thompson, David (DDMDO90) - FSIS
Subject: The Hot Dog Report Finds Meat in Meat-Free Products, Along with Human DNA - Food Safety Magazine

<http://www.foodsafetymagazine.com/news/the-hot-dog-report-finds-meat-in-meat-free-products-along-with-human-dna/#.Vi5PlaeWTxE.email>

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From: Thompson, David (DDMDO90) - FSIS
To: (b) (6) - FSIS
Subject: FW: The Hot Dog Report Finds Meat in Meat-Free Products, Along with Human DNA - Food Safety Magazine
Date: Monday, October 26, 2015 3:10:17 PM

The vegans don't have it any better.

From: david.thompson4@addthis.com [mailto:david.thompson4@addthis.com] **On Behalf Of** david.thompson4@fsis.usda.gov
Sent: Monday, October 26, 2015 11:07 AM
To: Thompson, David (DDMDO90) - FSIS
Subject: The Hot Dog Report Finds Meat in Meat-Free Products, Along with Human DNA - Food Safety Magazine

<http://www.foodsafetymagazine.com/news/the-hot-dog-report-finds-meat-in-meat-free-products-along-with-human-dna/#.Vi5PlaeWTxE.email>

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e=YeYIkBqYCN8YmQOcHIIDn1ixCoIFgkKEH5UN3wueGg](http://www.addthis.com/privacy/email-opt-out?e=YeYIkBqYCN8YmQOcHIIDn1ixCoIFgkKEH5UN3wueGg)

From: Hicks, Janice
To: [Hicks, John - FSIS](#)
Subject: RE: Emailing: The Hot Dog Report Finds Meat in Meat-Free Products, Along with Human DNA - Food Safety Magazine.htm
Date: Monday, October 26, 2015 12:59:40 PM

This is funny!!

Janice

Janice C. Hicks
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"We must become the change we want to see" Ghandi

"Blessed are those who can give without remembering and take without forgetting" Elizabeth Bibesco

"Pleasure consumes us, Work strengthens us. Let us choose" Charles Baudelaire



UNIVERSITY of MARYLAND
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From: Hicks, John - FSIS [mailto:John.Hicks@fsis.usda.gov]
Sent: Monday, October 26, 2015 12:06 PM
To: Hicks, Janice
Subject: Emailing: The Hot Dog Report Finds Meat in Meat-Free Products, Along with Human DNA - Food Safety Magazine.htm

Funny!

John Hicks

From: (b) (6) - FSIS
To: (b) (6) - FSIS
Subject: The Hot Dog Report Finds Meat in Meat-Free Products, Along with Human DNA - Food Safety Magazine
Date: Monday, October 26, 2015 8:15:01 AM

<http://www.foodsafetymagazine.com/news/the-hot-dog-report-finds-meat-in-meat-free-products-along-with-human-dna/>

Interesting!

From: Stevens, Janet - FSIS
To: [Almanza, Al - FSIS](#); [Derfler, Phil - FSIS](#)
Subject: Clear Food - The Hot Dog Report
Date: Monday, October 26, 2015 4:58:11 AM

FYI that this report from a company that genetically tests food products is starting to make the rounds on social media, including trending on Facebook. The claim is that they found that 2% of the 345 hot dog samples comprised of 75 brands they tested had human DNA in them. Oddly 2/3rds of the vegetarian samples had them. Other results were that ingredients on the label didn't match (including 10% of the vegetarian products contained meat) and samples had hygienic issues (split was 1/3 meat-2/3 vegetarian), although it was unclear if these met statutory thresholds. Their claim is while some of their findings may be permissible under the law, "our scientific disclosure allows you, as the consumer, to decide whether the variance or problems meet your personal standard in your buying decision."

http://www.clearfood.com/food_reports/2015/the_hotdog_report

Best Regards,
Janet

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Visit the FSIS Web site: <http://www.fsis.usda.gov>

FSIS Employees, visit your intranet site, InsideFSIS: <http://inside.fsis.usda.gov>

Have a food safety question? AskKaren at <http://www.AskKaren.gov>
USDA-FSIS-OA-OCIO
Mail Stop: 3165-S
[1400 Independence Ave. SW](#)
[Washington, DC 20250-3133](#)

Lost/stolen laptop, Blackberry, smartphone or other personal data assistant? *Immediately* contact USDA at [1-888-926-2373](tel:1-888-926-2373) 24 hours a day, then contact the FSIS Service Desk [24/7/365](tel:247-365) at [1-800-473-9135](tel:1-800-473-9135).

Have a hardware, software or connectivity issue?
Leave a Footprint at the Service Desk:
<http://service/footprints> or call the FSIS Service Desk [24/7/365](tel:247-365) at [1-800-473-9135](tel:1-800-473-9135).

Check your steps at <http://www.foodsafety.gov/keep/basics/>